

# LONG ISLAND FORUM



THE OLD MILL AT STONY BROOK

From a Painting by William S. Mount. Reprinted from Edward A. Lapham's "Stony Brook Secrets"  
by courtesy of the author

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 FORUM**

Published Monthly at  
**AMITYVILLE, N. Y.**

FOR LONG ISLANDERS EVERYWHERE

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 post office at Amityville, New York, under the Act of  
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**PAUL BAILEY, Publisher-Editor**

*Contributing Editors*

Clarence A. Wood, LL.M., Ph.D.  
 Malcolm M. Willey, Ph.D.  
 John C. Huden, Ph.D.

**MAY, 1951**

**Red Creek Mill**

Can someone tell me about Jeremiah Terry, miller at Red Creek (Southampton Town), about 1750-60. Also other early residents there. Mrs. Livingston Bowden, Bowden Square, Southampton.

\*\*\*

**Halloack Data Wanted**

I am looking for information leading to the names of parents and grandparents of Thomas Hallock, born July 11, 1768, died January 7, 1854, married Sarah—, March 8, 1797, who was born November 25, 1780 and died January 18, 1849. The above Thomas and Sarah Hallock had four children. Mrs. Henry D. Mills, 110 Jennings Avenue, Patchogue, N. Y.

\*\*\*

**About John Bowne**

The Life and Times of John Bowne is the title of a small pamphlet by August Kupka, former president of the Flushing Historical Society, which appears as publisher. It is one of a series of biographical and historical pamphlets released through the Society from time to time. This one tells very briefly the story of Flushing's early Quaker leader whose homestead, now owned by the city, is maintained as a shrine of religious freedom. Bowne was also the first treasurer of Queens County.

\*\*\*

**"There's Always Adventure"**

is the story of a naturalist's wife, by Grace E. Barstow Murphy, published by Harper & Brothers. It is the exciting life story of a naturalist's wife whose travels have spanned the earth. It is also the record of a unique marriage which never lost its sense of adventure or humor.

Grace E. Barstow Murphy was born in Providence, R. I., and in 1912 became the wife of Robert Cushman Murphy who is now the Chairman of the Bird Department of the American Museum of Natural History and a world authority

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## John Hulbert of Flag Fame

**A** CRUMPLED old ensign with thirteen stars and thirteen stripes was brought to light a quarter of a century ago at Bridgehampton, Long Island. It was soon heralded as the prototype of the American Flag, antedating it was claimed even the one allegedly made by Betsy Ross, the Philadelphia seamstress, at the behest of General Washington.

A decade ago the flag was prominently displayed in the New York State Building at the World's Fair on Flushing Meadows as a product of Long Island. At that time it was also extensively publicized in the metropolitan and Island press. It is now preserved in a hermetically-sealed steel-framed enclosure attached to the wall in the corridor of the Suffolk County Historical Society Building at Riverhead.

The house in which the partially disintegrated flag was hidden away for many years was once the property and home of John Hulbert who captained a group of eastern Long Island minutemen in the early part of the Revolutionary War. Later he was breveted a second lieutenant.

There were four successive John Hulberts. They were descendants in line without a break of Thomas Hulbert, an early settler in New England. The name sometimes is spelled Hurlbut and some say Hubbard is a variant form of the name.

Thomas, the pioneer Hulbert emigrant, arrived 1635 near Boston in the company of Lion Gardiner who gave his name to Gardiners Island lying in the bite of eastern Long Island, where he located in 1639.

Gardiner and Hulbert sailed to the New World in a schooner called the Bachelor. At Saybrook, Connecticut, they collaborated in the erection of a fort. Hulbert was

*Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood*

lieutenant of the company which garrisoned that fort during the Pequot War.

The first John Hulbert, son of the emigrant Thomas, was born March 8, 1642, supposedly at Weathersfield, Connecticut. John Hulbert's son to whom he gave his name was born at Middletown in the same commonwealth, Dec. 5, 1671. The second John Hulbert married as his first wife Lydia Ketcham. They had a daughter Margaret who married Timothy Sage, son of David and Mary (Wilcox) Sage.

The head of the family for the first three generations of Hulberts, Thomas, John and John, were blacksmiths. They earned enough at the forge to enable the family to establish a century or so ago the national bank at Weathersfield.

The third John Hulbert, brother of Margaret, was born at Middletown the birthplace of his father, Oct. 14, 1701. He was a lieutenant in 1745 at the capture of Louisburg. He, like his sister Margaret, married into the Sage family. His wife Elizabeth Sage was a niece of one Russell Sage. It is likely that Elizabeth and Timothy Sage were sister and brother.

Lieutenant John and Elizabeth (Sage) Hulbert sailed across Long Island Sound and located at Bridgehampton. There Lieutenant Hulbert kept a store and died March 24, 1775.

A decade later his wife was buried in the old cemetery in that village, close to the plot of the one-time local pastor Rev. Aaron Woolworth. The stone over her grave reads, or once read: "In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of Lieut. John Hulbert, who died Aug. 15th, 1785, in the 83rd year of her age."

Their son John Hulbert, the subject of this article in whose one-time abode at Bridgehampton the flag in question was found, was hence the fourth of that name. Prudence Howell, daughter of Deacon Samuel and Sarah Howell became his wife.

John Hulbert, consort of Prudence Howell was a cordwainer. As such he converted the tanned hides of Montauk cattle into shoes and saddles.

He and David Gelston, son of Deacon Gelston of Bridgehampton, also owned and outfitted ships which sailed to the West Indies for rum, tea and spices from Long Wharf at nearby Sag Harbor.

The cordwainer was one of the few natives of Bridgehampton who at that time owned and read books. As early as 1770 he became a local magistrate. After the Revolt justice for a long period.

While the British in 1775



Lion Gardiner, Friend of First Hulbert

were yet besieging Boston their vessels frequently crossed Long Island Sound. Anchoring in Gardiners Bay they raided the unprotected sheep and cattle grazing on the isolated Montauk pastures.

In the summer of 1775 the men of Bridgehampton gathered in the meeting house to plan how to protect their stock. The village had no minister at that time. In the absence of that dignitary Deacon David Hedges habitually took his place, reading a sermon if it were the Sabbath.

After the war Deacon Hedges served as a member of the Convention which met at Poughkeepsie in 1788 and tardily ratified the proposed Federal Constitution. He voted for its adoption. From 1786 to 1807 he was a member of the State Assembly. For twenty years he also served as supervisor of Southampton town in which is located Bridgehampton. His grandson Judge Henry P. Hedges was the accepted historian of the Hamptons during his very long life.

On July 2, 1775 Deacon Hedges assumed his customary role as moderator at the meeting of the agitated yeomanry of the Hamptons. Inspired by his rhetorical efforts, twenty-one men of Bridgehampton that day organized as vigilantes determined to save their property from enemy raiders. They chose magistrate John Hulbert as leader. The men of East Hampton, Southampton and also of Southold on the opposite fork of the Island formed similar companies.

Because of the defenceless situation of eastern Long Island, these vigilantes, later known as minutemen, for a time were permitted by the Provincial Congress to remain at Montauk to guard their livestock. In late September, however, they were ordered by Col. Alexander McDougal to join the 3rd Regiment then quartered at Ticonderoga

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## Did Louis XVII Preach Here?

ONE hundred years ago, the public of Long Island, New York City and in fact of this and other eastern States were debating the question "Is there a Bourbon among us?" Discussion was founded on the widespread belief that a prominent minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Rev. Eleazer Williams, was none other than France's famous Dauphin, the son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Many people in Europe as well as here had long believed that this young heir to the throne of France had been spirited away from the Paris dungeon in which he had been placed by Robespierre and other revolutionists and had been brought to America.

The rumor had long persisted that the child had been turned over to the custody of Indians, with the hope that his identity might never be discovered. Investigations carried on from time to time eventually established the fact that the Rev. Eleazer Williams, whose facial resemblance to Louis XVI of France had been noted and who gave every indication of an aristocratic background, had arrived in America in the year 1795, soon after the incarceration of the so-called Dauphin.

Brought here by two French gentlemen, the child had been left with the St. Regis Indians of Lake George who soon thereafter had turned the white boy over to the Oneida tribe. A member of this tribe who went by the name of Thomas Williams adopted the child and gave him the name of Eleazer Williams. At that time, investigation showed, the boy could speak no other language but French and this of the purest type as used by the Bourbons of France. Tutors in various Indian languages, he did not acquire a

*H. P. Horton*

knowledge of English until some years later.

At the time of Eleazer Williams' adoption into the Oneida tribe, the chief thereof was a young brave by name of Skenondough who many years later testified that he recalled the child's arrival. That the chief and Williams became fast friends and remained so throughout their lives added weight to Skenondough's testimony. The French boy showed great aptitude for scholarship, studied theology and became an ordained minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He devoted himself chiefly, however, to missionary work among the Indians for whom he translated the Book of Common Prayer into the Mohawk and Iroquois languages, achievement which earned him national recognition in church circles.

During the War of 1812, Eleazer Williams served the American cause as a spy against the British and his influence with the Indians of northern New York State prevented many of them from joining the enemy's forces. From then on, Williams' fame as a missionary and preacher increased and with it the public opinion that he indeed was the legal heir to the French throne. He, however, made no such claim but insisted that he could recall nothing of his early years before living with the Oneidas.

Among those who personally investigated the matter was the Rev. Mr. Hanson who wrote a book supporting the theory that Williams and Louis XVII were one and the same. In 1853 the Rev. Francis Vinton, a close associate of Williams and like him well known on Long Island where both had preached, contributed an article to Put-

nam's Magazine submitting new evidence obtained by him substantiating Mr. Hanson's claims. This article mentioned a birthmark which the Lost Prince and Williams, alleged the writer, had in common. It also mentioned prominent Europeans who were said to have recognized Williams as the Lost Prince.

Because of the interest here, the Long Island Historical Society in 1868, following the death of Eleazer Williams, reprinted the magazine article of 15 years before by Mr. Vinton, who, incidentally, was assistant minister of Holy Trinity Church in New York. The pamphlet in which this reprint appeared, a copy of which now lies before this author, was entitled "Louis XVII and Eleazer Williams—Were They the Same Person?" It quoted the editor of Putnam's Magazine as having referred to Francis Vinton as "a gentleman whose high character as a clergyman and as a learned and logical investigator will command at once the most entire confidence in the impartial accuracy of his statements."

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Rev. Eleazer Williams  
Sketched by W. O. Stevens for His Book  
"Discovering Long Island"



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## Visitors Welcome

The General Museum-Library of the Suffolk County Historical Society, at Riverhead, is open daily (except Sundays and Holidays) from one to five P. M.

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## Forum

Continued From Page 82

on oceanic birds. Raising three children didn't temporarily stop Mrs. Murphy's adventure either. She was always ready to toss the family possessions into bags and take off to explore distant lands.

"The secret of travel is to take things as they come" was always a Murphy maxim. It was the way the Murphys approached life — with zest and humor. These qualities stamp the pages of "There's Always Adventure" and its wide appeal touches upon a thousand things — from natural history, to camping in the mud, to the sickness induced by high altitudes, to the beauty of an albatross and the sociability of penguins, to the rewards of parenthood and the hazards of marriage to a naturalist who "much prefers birds to people."

Dr. and Mrs. Murphy have long made their home at Crystal Brook, near Port Jefferson. The Doctor has written for the Long Island Forum and his great volume "Logbook For Grace" was reviewed in our columns several years ago.

\* \* \*

## Major Andre's Watch

The story of Raynham Hall, Oyster Bay, by H. P. Horton in the April issue of the Forum in which he tells of the famous visitors to that home in Revolutionary days, brings to mind an item relating to the tragic end of one of them, Major John Andre.

After his capture on September 23, 1780 he was in the custody of Major Benjamin Tallmadge, a Long Islander by birth and chief aide to General Washington. Andre's effects were sold after his execution and among them was an open-faced gold watch which brought thirty guineas. The proceeds were divided among his three captors, John Paulding, David Williams and Isaac Van Wart.

The Watch afterwards remained in a New York pawnshop for many years and then came into the possession of Gabriel Furman of Brick Church, N. J. At a sale in New York in 1885 the watch was purchased by a Mr. Peabody for \$510. John Tooker, Babylon.

\* \* \*

## Wanted

The Forum would appreciate receiving copies of its March 1951 issue. Will send 12 cents in stamps for each such copy received.

\* \* \*

## Mississippi Kings

During March I went from North Camp Polk, here in Louisiana, to Natchez, Mississippi, to attend the

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## Snowbound Trains of Yore

**S**NOWSTORMS have always brought plenty of troubles and hard work to Long Island Railroad men. The great blizzard of March 1888 was not the first one, nor the last, but it was the one that got the most publicity, and is still talked about by old timers 63 years later.

William F. Potter, who came from the Pere Marquette Railroad in the late 1890s to become Superintendent of the L. I. R. R., and who was used to deep snow in Michigan, once said that clearing a snow blockade on the L. I. R. R. was the hardest job of that kind that he ever tackled. Heavy damp snow often mixed with sand damaged engines and plows in attempts to push through it. A rotary snow-plow bought by the L. I. R. R. in the 90s was often laid up with the revolving mechanism damaged.

I have sometimes wondered how the L. I. R. R. managed to get through the snow in the days when they had the ten ton engines and light cars, for they certainly must have had snow-storms that tied them up. Perhaps they just quit running. The earliest accounts that I have date from 1877.

There was a heavy snow-storm on New Years night 1877, and the evening train to Port Jefferson, composed of two cars, four engines and a snow-plow, arrived there at 3 a.m. There were no trains to Greenport all day Tuesday January 2d. On February 28th, and March 1, 1879 a snow-storm blocked train service to the east end for several days. Drifts between Riverhead and Greenport, composed of sand and snow, were 1000 ft. long and 13 ft. deep. Some 300 men were engaged in opening the tracks.

Another storm on March 31st that year left drifts five feet deep between Manorville and Riverhead with 5 snow-

*John Tooker*

plows and 200 men breaking the blockade. From Dec. 29th, 1880 to January 8, 1881 the L. I. R. R. was tied up by another severe storm. No trains ran on the Central Branch to Babylon for about two weeks, and the Sag Harbor Branch was closed for several days by drifts in the Shinnecock Hills 25 ft. deep. There were no trains on the Main Line east of Riverhead for some time, and 10 or 12 locomotives were damaged fighting snow.

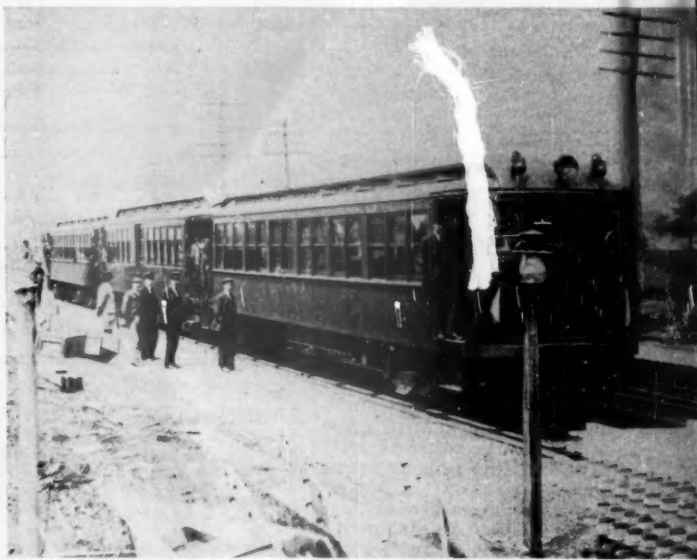
The records consulted for 1882 fail to mention snow-storms but there must have been one or more, for the L. I. R. R. on February 18, 1882 awarded five days vacation to three of the engineers for excellent work in a recent storm. The three engineers (all known to the writer 14 years later), were Edward Pender, Edward Townsend, and Vincent Lewis.

The writer, as a passenger,

once spent the night at Bushwick Junction in a snow-bound Babylon train, but left the train at 7 a.m. and went back to New York City by elevated train, and learned later that the crew of the Babylon train did not get clear until 2 p.m.

A snow-plow in action is a sight worth seeing. In the winter of 1896 I was working in the newly erected Children's Home at Yaphank and the night before Christmas it snowed to a depth of about two feet. The west bound Greenport train composed of two cars, two engines and a snow-plow arrived at Yaphank about 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day. Most of the snow had been blown off the tracks near the depot but a short distance to the west it had banked up quite deep. As the train with increasing speed plunged into this bank both engines were almost lost to sight in the stream of snow that rose from

Continued on page 96



First Electric Train to Hempstead, 1908. From Bailey's Long Island History.

## John Hulbert of Flag Fame

Continued from page 84

which fort in the preceding May had surrendered to Ethan Allen. By October 8th Hulbert and his men reached Lake George. Four days later the British 7th Regiment surrendered at Fort Chambly.

The minutemen from eastern Long Island were chosen by Col. James Clinton afterwards Governor of New York, to conduct the British prisoners, including Major Spafford and a band of musicians, to Trenton.

Hulbert was subsequently appointed a second lieutenant in the regiment of Suffolk County minutemen which was under the command of Col. Josiah Smith of Moriches in Brookhaven town. He is so described in a list of commissioned officers of that regiment in the winter of 1775-6.

He and his men returned to Suffolk County after the accomplishment of their mission to New Jersey and were discharged Jan. 18, 1776.

Later Hulbert was associated with Henry Beekman Livingston in outfitting privateers which harrassed the British ships still operating from their anchorage off eastern Long Island. One such privateer, the *Revenge*, captured the *Amherst* and also the brig *William* which was carrying supplies for the British army.

When the British took possession of all Long Island after the disastrous battle near Brooklyn in August, 1776, Capt. Hulbert with a great many of his Revolutionary compatriots fled to Connecticut. He is mentioned in Onderdonk's *Revolutionary Incidents* (p. 70), as having given permission to refugees from Long Island to return to their homes.

At the conclusion of the war Capt. Hulbert returned to the Hamptons and there resided during the next quarter of a century. From 1782 to 1797 he

lived at Bridgehampton. Thereafter until 1807 he lived at Sag Harbor where his business was conducted. All his letters during the latter period were captioned as written at that port. His letter books abruptly stop in the month of November, 1803.

The declining years of Hulbert's life were clouded with ill health, financial misfortune and debt. He became so poor that he was obliged to sell much of his personal property. Some of his books went into the nucleus of the first library established at Bridgehampton in the early 1790s. A few of them are now in libraries at the Hamptons.

In 1807 Hulbert sold his business at Sag Harbor and went to Seneca County in upstate New York, never returning to his native Island. In that section lived a particular friend and fellow Revolutionary pa-

triot from Bridgehampton as well as many descendants of his pioneer ancestor Thomas Hulbert.

Dr. Silas Howell, a native of Southampton and relative of Hulbert's deceased wife, practiced his profession in the Hamptons from 1764 to 1776. In that calamitous year he, like his neighbor Hulbert fled to Connecticut. There he lived for three years at Killing-

Continued on page 93

"The Fame Behind the Name"

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## Judge, Hessian, Et Al

I HAVE been wandering of late through the pages of "The History of Kings County, Including Brooklyn," and have met some interesting oldtime people. There was, for instance, John Garrison, born at Gravesend in 1764 and whose boyhood was spent in Brooklyn. As a man he became a butcher and had a stall at the Fly Market.

Garrison was a large man, 6 feet 2 inches, and weighed 300 pounds. It was as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas rather than as a butcher that he made his mark. He and Squire Nicolls, 'tis said, dispensed about all the justice in order.

One day a trial was going on before Judge Garrison in which a man was suing another for a sum of money. The case had dragged on throughout a long hot summer's day and everyone was hot and tired when one lawyer, closing the case, asked the Judge to charge the jury. Said Garrison, "Gentlemen of the Jury, you have heard the learned counsel on both sides and the last lawyer who spoke has asked me to charge the Jury. My charge shall be short." He pointed at one of the litigants and continued, "I think that man owes that man (pointing at the other litigant) the money, and he ought to pay it!"

In another case, A. T. sued G. T. for 10 shillings. Judge Garrison ruled that A. T. should receive the amount, but as G. T. still refused to pay up A. T. appealed to the learned jurist. Declared Garrison, "I'll issue a summons and I'll guarantee that you will be paid." That did not work either, so A.T. returned to court a few days later and said, "Look here, Judge, you guaranteed that debt, and now if you don't pay it I'll sue you." "Oh well,"

### Kate W. Strong

returned Garrison, "the case must be settled," so he paid A.T. out of his own pocket.

John Valentine Swertcope was a Hessian who did not return to Europe after the Revolution, but settled in Brooklyn. He was a soldierly man with a long gray beard and having been an armorer in the British army he took up repairing guns. He did so well that word got around that he had found buried treasure. Be that as it may, he purchased land, built a home and had a

who sold berries about town. Soon the ex-Hessian was selling more of the berries than De Boise. He also made a sort of bitters which he peddled on the streets of New York. Amassing what was a fortune in those days, he kept his money in a strong box under his bed with the key beneath his pillow. Even on his death bed he refused to let a daughter take the key in order to pay a bill.

Animal power was much in use to run machinery before the days of steam. Joseph Sprague (afterward Mayor)



When Brooklyn Bridge Was New. Ferry House on Right. Eagle Building Left.  
From Leslie Elhoff Collection.

fine garden and orchard. He grew roses and began distilling rose water. As Brooklyn was a great place for roses in those days, neighbors started bringing their own flowers to the Hessian who distilled them into rose water on a fifty-fifty basis.

Swertcope also invented an air gun that fired clay pellets which he used to keep boys out of his orchard. His next step was to purchase some strawberry plants from a neighbor, the De Boise family,

had a factory in Brooklyn for making Whitmore Cards which were used in the manufacture of woolen goods. He ran the plant entirely by dog power. The early ferryboats were powered by horses driven round and round a shaft connected with the paddlewheels.

I enjoy the Forum very much as I am interested in anything historical about good old Long Island where our winters are about as good as they produce in tropical Florida, according to what I read these days (early January).

E. W. Seabury, Bridgehampton.

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## Forum

Continued From Page 86

famous Natchez Pilgrimage, an annual event when homes and other buildings built prior to the Civil War are open to the public. There I learned that the oldest house in Mississippi, the King Tavern in Natchez, was owned and operated by Richard King, a member of the Southhold, L. I., family of that name. I believe that Richard, who received a land grant in and around Natchez in 1789, was the grandson of John King of Southold and a son or nephew of Prosper King. Richard and his wife Esther owned much property here when they died. The inn was sold in 1817 by Samuel and Elizabeth King (presumably son and daughter-in-law of Richard) for \$2000.

King Tavern was evidently originally a blockhouse as it was built on a high brick foundation, on a knoll. The first United States mail ever brought to Natchez was delivered to the tavern. It was standing prior to Richard King's time and may have been built by his grandfather John King or the latter's son Prosper. It was constructed from ship timbers put together with wooden pegs.

Private John D. O'Halloran  
U. S. 51071309, B. Battery  
816th F. A. Barracks  
N. Camp Polk, La.

Private O'Halloran, before entering the service from Brooklyn, was known as a student of Long Island Indian lore, having written on that subject for the Forum

\* \* \*

It is a fine thing you are doing, getting the past on the record. Edwin Way Teale, Baldwin. (Mr. Teale is the author of Near Horizons, Dune Boy, and other well known books on natural history subjects.)

\* \* \*

## Forum Microfilms

Microfilms of the Long Island Forum for 1950 are now available in complete year, volume 13. Send check \$1.50 direct to University Microfilms, 313 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

\* \* \*

I was elated to learn that Mr. A. L. Johnson of Elizabeth, Union County Superintendent of Schools, subscribes to your fine monthly and finds its historical articles useful. H. A. Manton, Newark, N. J.

\* \* \*

I enjoy the Forum very much. Mrs. Sarah Hoppin, Oyster Bay.  
Continued on next page

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## Forum

Continued from page 90

### Montauk Going Ahead

How did you like issue of National Geographic and its L. I. story? Too bad they always have to rate Montauk as the place that went bust in '29. Actually we are experiencing a not-too-slow and sound building program out here. A recent survey indicates 170 new places since 1940 in one small area outside present fire district.

Richard T. Gilmartin, Montauk.

Mr. Gilmartin, former Suffolk County Commissioner of Public Welfare, is one of the east end's chief boosters.

\*\*\*

Dr. Wood's "A Firkin of Home-made Butter" was most interesting to me. I have stirred butter with a paddle and worked it with a ladle many a time. Eunice Jones, Patchogue.

\*\*\*

### Old Time Decoy Makers

By A. P. Carver

The bird stories in the Forum are always interesting, especially those having to do with wild fowl. There is, however, one kind of bay bird that you've never dealt with. That is the duck decoy, better known to the gunning gentry as Duck Stool.

I suppose you've read Joel Barber's book on the subject, published in 1934. He gives Long Island a lot of credit in this field. According to him, the first duck decoy show in America was held at Bellport in 1923, which was a year before New York City put one on. Wilbur Corwin Sr., who shot ducks for market and who, I seem to recall, was also one-time keeper of the Bellport Lifesaving Station, sponsored that first exhibition. Captain Corwin, as he was called, made his own decoys and also made them for others.

Arthur Barber also credits Great South Bay with various innovations in the sport of duck-shooting. According to his book, the first cork decoys were used here and also the first swinging weights which hang under the stool and keep it upright. Also, to quote Barber: "The horse-shoe anchor was introduced by battery gunners of the Great South Bay. Local blacksmiths joined the open ends of discarded shoes, thus forming an iron ring of proper weight which could be dropped over the head of the decoy when not in use."

Still according to Barber's book, Continued on next page

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## Long Island Forum Index

Index of Long Island Forum, years 1938-47 inclusive. About 40 pages compiled by Miss Marguerite V. Doggett, Librarian L. I. Collection, Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica 2, N. Y. Done by photo offset process. \$1 postpaid. Order from Miss Doggett.

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## Forum

Continued From Page 91

Long Island produced some pretty fine decoys makers. Ben Hawkins of Bellport was making snipe stool around 1800; a Captain Ketcham of Copiague made "floating sea gull" stools just prior to the Civil War, and Thomas Gelston of Quogue about 1897 was making cork black duck decoys.

Barber claims that "brant boxes" also originated on South Bay. These boxes were deeper than batteries and did not float but were placed on a flat. They usually required constant bailing to keep from gradually filling up.

Al Ketcham of Copiague used to tell how he as a boy went gunning with his father and grandfather and while they did the shooting it was his job to see that the muzzle-loaders were kept loaded and also to do the bailing. His chief concern was to see that he didn't bob up with a pail of water just as the guns were fired. Else he might not have lived as he has into his 90's. These brant boxes, according to Al, were usually set out in the spring when brant were most plentiful and there was no law against shooting them then as, he explained, they were migratory and never bred here.

Although some people claim the battery was a product of the Chesapeake Bay, Frank Forester's "Complete Manual for Young Sportsmen," first published in 1856, credits Long Island with introducing batteries as well as decoys. From here, he claimed, they were borrowed by Chesapeake Bay gunners who previous to that time usually slaughtered ducks, mostly canvasbacks, with a four-gauge gun (as big as an elephant gun) fastened to the bow of a small boat. They had to manuevre the boat to take aim into a flock of sleeping ducks but as they usually

Continued on page 95

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## John Hulbert of Flag Fame

Continued from page 88

worth. His wife having died in 1778, he obtained from Gen. Erskine permission to return with his four small children to his former home at Bridgehampton. After the war he held various public offices on Long Island until 1792 including that of sheriff of Suffolk County.

In that year he removed to the town of Ovid in Seneca County where for eight years he served in the State Assembly. Later he was a Congressman during the administration of Thomas Jefferson as President. Still later he was a State Senator.

At Lodi in Seneca County Dr. Howell provided a cemetery available exclusively for the burial of veterans of the Revolution. He died Nov. 19, 1832. In that burial ground the body of Capt. Hulbert was interred. Relatives have unsuccessfully sought the location of his grave. No one now in the town evidently knows anything about Capt. John Hulbert. His wife, as noted above, had died before he left Long Island and was buried in Bridgehampton.

Both houses in which Hulbert lived while resident in the Hamptons are still standing. The one in Sag Harbor is on the east side of Main street, being yet occupied as a dwelling.

His one and a half story hip-roof house at Bridgehampton is located now, as it was then, at the point where the Bridgehampton Turnpike and Lumber Lane meet. An old map of Bridgehampton places his home on lot 17 Brushy Plain at Lumber Lane east of Scuttle Hole Road.

When Hulbert left for Seneca County his Bridgehampton house was sold to Abraham Topping who gave it to his daughter, the wife of Dr. Samuel Rose. Dr. and Mrs. Rose became the parents of Abraham Topping Rose who lived from 1792 to 1857 and

served as County Judge and Surrogate of Suffolk County.

In 1848 Dr. David Lion Gardiner, descendant of Lion Gardiner who with pioneer Thomas Hulbert built the Saybrook fort and settled on Gardiners Island, became the village physician at Bridgehampton. He soon thereafter acquired the house that had been the home of Capt. Hulbert. There Dr. Gardiner lived until he gave up his practice in 1890. The next year he moved into a new house he built on a slight elevation back of the railroad station on the North Road. Because of a tower atop of Dr. Gardiner's home the location came to be known as Tower Hill.

When Capt. Hulbert left Bridgehampton for Seneca County many of his personal effects were dispersed about the neighborhood. Some found lodgement in the home of a relative.

By his purchase of the former Bridgehampton residence of Capt. Hulbert, Dr. Gardiner came into possession of the so-called Hulbert flag together with some old papers pertaining to the military service of Hulbert and the Hampton minutemen. These were found by Dr. Gardiner in the attic of the old Hulbert house and there they remained for more than four decades.

About eight years before his death, March 30, 1898, Dr. Gardiner transferred the flag and the Hulbert military papers to the attic of his Tower Hill house.

Below Tower Hill, where now resides Miss Gertrude T. Leveridge, lived until his death her uncle William Donaldson Halsey, one time president of the Sag Harbor Savings Bank. The town of Southampton is known to be "loaded" with Halseys. It is said that a clergyman new to the town once thanked seven Mrs. Halseys for the gift of a pie before he at last conveyed his appreciation to the real donor.

As there was more than one

William D. Halsey living in the Hamptons during the lifetime of the bank president, his contemporaries avoided confusion of identity by dubbing him "Will Noah" Halsey. His father was Noah H. Halsey.

Halsey was greatly interested in the past of Bridgehampton. He wrote a book of local memories and became the historian of his native town. In the Riverhead museum is a rich heritage of a great number of obsolete articles, silent remnants of Long Island's past, gathered and donated by him.

During the lifetime of his neighbor Dr. Gardiner, Halsey had seen the flag in the Tower Hill house. After the death of Mrs. Gardiner in 1926 Halsey and his intimate friend Clifford J. Foster, who had charge of the settlement of the Gardiner estate, went to the Tower Hill house. There they located the flag and folded papers behind a beam in the attic. The flag Halsey eventually gave to the County Historical Society. The accompanying papers somehow got to the East Hampton Library.

Both Halsey and Foster are now dead. The former was born in 1861 and died Feb. 28, 1939, and hence was about 78 when he died. Foster died in 1943 at the age of 84 years.

If Capt. Hulbert had any idea the flag in his possession was the first Stars and Stripes the question arises why he consigned it to an attic, as though it were stolen money. Knowing its priority, he would have more naturally draped it on a wall of his home. Strange, indeed, that he did not carry a treasure of such alleged historical significance with him when he migrated to distant Seneca County. Forty more years passed. Then Dr. Gardiner was its custodian for half a century and Mrs. Gardiner for nearly thirty more years. Still the flag remained attic-bound. This seems incredible if anybody in the Hamptons knew it was the original American Flag.



## BOOKS

These items for Long Island students, libraries and collectors are now available. For particulars address the Long Island Forum.

Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut. Frederic Gregory Mather. 1200 pages of Revolutionary and colonial data on Long Island families. 1913.

Men of Our Times, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, and whose father, Rev. Lyman Beecher, was preacher at East Hampton. Published 1868. 575 pages, 18 steel engravings and many other illustrations.

1845 Reprint of A Brief Description of New York (including Long Island), Daniel Denton. 1670. Only 100 copies printed. This reprint was by William Gowans, Edgar Allen Poe's landlord in New York.

Journal of the Life and Religious Labors of Elias Hicks of Jericho, L. I. 1832. 451 pages. This native son of Nassau County became one of America's leading Quaker preachers.

Nassau County, The Netherland of the New World. Arthur L. Hodges. 1940. 82 pages. Cloth binding.

Adventures For God. A History of St. George's Episcopal Church, Hempstead. By Dr. John Sylvanus Haight. 1932. 278 pages. Illustrated.

Long Island To-Day. Frederick Ruther. 610 illustrations. 1909 271p.

Historic Long Island. 1902. Rufus Rockwell Wilson. Fully illustrated. 364 pages.

Just Hunting. Harry T. Peters. Autographed by Author. 1935. 247p.

Minutes of the Albany Committee of Correspondence, 2 vols. 1923 1283p.

Adeline, The Victim of Seduction, in 3 acts. John Howard Payne. Also Wives as They Were, 5-act comedy. By Mrs. Inchbald. Also The Woodman's Hut, in 3 acts. Original edition. 1825.

Indian Place-Names on Long Island and Islands Adjacent. William Wallace Tooker. 1911 314p.

The Social History of Flatbush, and Manners and Customs of the Dutch Settlers in Kings County. Gertrude Lefferts Vanderbilt. 1899-1882. 351p.

Records, Town of Brookhaven, up to 1800. Compiled by Town Clerk. 1880. 219p.

Collections of the N. Y. Historical Society for 1869. 560p.

John Eliot's First Indian Teacher and Interpreter, Cockenoe-De-Long Island, and the story of his career from the earliest records. Wm. Wallace Tooker. 1896. 60p.

The Eastern District of Brooklyn. Eugene L. Armbruster. 1912 205p.

Tredwell's Reminiscences of Men and Things on Long Island, two vols. Danl. M. Tredwell. 1912. Heavy paper bound 350p.

Antiquities of Long Island, to which is added a bibliography by Henry Onderdonk, Jr. Edited by Frank Moore. Gabriel Furman. 1875. 478p.

Stony Brook Secrets. Edward A. Lapham. 1942. 146p.

Records of the Town of Smithtown, Long Island, N. Y. Wm. S. Pelletreau. 1898. 503p.

Old Dutch Houses of Brooklyn Maud Esther Dilliard. 1845.

Charter and Ordinances of the City of Boston. 1834. 300p.

Old Southold Town's Tercentenary. Ann Hallock Currie-Bell. 1940. 161p.

The Country Printer. New York State 1785-1830. Milton W. Hamilton. 1936. 360p.

## Pamphlets by the Forum

*Long Island, Cradle of Aviation*, by Preston R. Bassett, president Nassau County Historical Society. The island's part in world aeronautics, republished from Bailey's Long Island History. One dollar postpaid.

*First Train to Greenport, 1844*, by Dr. Clarence A. Wood, for more than 40 years secretary to Judges of the Court of Appeals. 50 cents.

*History of the Storms and Gales on Long Island*, by Osborn Shaw, Official Historian, Town of Brookhaven; *The Hurricane of 1938*, by Dorothy Quick, Poetess and Novelist. Limited, numbered edition. Out of print.

*History of Setauket Presbyterian Church*, by Kate W. Strong, with introduction by the Rev. Frank M. Kerr, Hempstead. Limited number edition of 200. Sold by Miss Strong, Setauket, L.I. Out of print.

*The Talented Mount Brothers*, by Jacqueline Overton, author of "Long Island's Story" and Librarian of the Children's Library, Westbury, with introduction by Harry Peters, art collector, critic, author and lecturer. Limited numbered edition of 500. Sold by author. 50 cents.

*David Frothingham, Pioneer Editor*, by Nancy Boyd Willey. For sale by Mrs. M. M. Willey, L. I. Herald House, Sag Harbor. 50 cents.

*Long Island's First Italian, 1639*, by Berne A. Pyrke, former New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets. 50 cents.

*Streamlining a County Welfare Service*, by Edwin W. Wallace, Commissioner Public Welfare, Nassau County. 25 cents.

*To Florida and Back from Long Island (in 29-Foot Fishing Skiff)*, by Captain Charles Suydam, Jr., off-shore fisherman extraordinary. 50 cents.

*Ezra L'Hommedieu, Island Statesman*, by Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood. A biographical sketch of Southold Town's famous native son, "Father of the Board of Regents". One Dollar.

*History of Patchogue Congregational Church*, by Frank Overton, M.D. 50 cents.

*History of the Long Island State Parks*, by Chester R. Blakelock, Executive Secretary, Long Island State Park Commission. Republished from Bailey's Long Island History. For particulars address author, Babylon, N. Y.

*Birthplace of John Howard Payne*, by Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood, Contributing Editor Long Island Forum. A comprehensive presentation of conclusive proof that the author of "Home, Sweet Home" was born in New York City. Limited edition. One Dollar.

*A Small Boat Trip to Florida (Winter of 1947-48)*, by Captain Charles Suydam, Jr. 50 cents.

*True Tales* from the early days of Long Island, as told by Kate W. Strong, based on records, documents and other data in her private collection 12 Pamphlets, each one containing a number of Miss Strong's original stories, reprinted from the Long Island Forum. For particulars address Miss Kate W. Strong, The Cedars, Setauket, L. I.

*Long Island Whaling*, by Nathaniel R. Howell, founder of Historically Minded Group. 30 cents.

*Earliest English Schools on Long Island*, by Nathaniel R. Howell, Town Historian Islip, Councillor Suffolk County Historical Society, Leader Historically Minded Group. Sold by the author, East Islip, N. Y., postpaid 50 cents.

*The Pottery at Huntington*, by Romanah Sammis, Official Historian, Town of Huntington. For sale by Huntington Historical Society. 25 cents.

*Distribution of Wild Orchids on Long Island* by Roy Latham, well known authority. Limited, numbered edition. Sold by author, Orient, L. I. 50 cents.

*Five Thousand Years of Relief*, by Edwin W. Wallace, Commissioner Public Welfare, Nassau County; President, New York Association of Public Welfare Officials. Out of print.

*Tales of An Island and Its People*, by Dr. Clarence A. Wood. A group of seven sketches on Long Island's famous horses and horsemen of yesteryear, and other historical subjects. 50 cents.

## Did Louis XVII Preach Here?

Continued from page 85

Many students of that day accepted Mr. Vinton's findings as final. In Grace Episcopal Church on Brooklyn Heights and in other Long Island churches in which Eleazer Williams had preached, the consensus of opinion remained following the eloquent missionary's death that he had died the uncrowned King of France. To this day, as far as this author can learn, that conviction has never been successfully refuted.

### Forum

Continued from page 92

did their market gunning at night this was not difficult.

Chesapeake Bay wasn't the only place that slaughtered wild fowl in the old days. Barber tells of a late December day in 1898 when Cap-

tain Corwin of Bellport, with one companion shooting from a double battery, and attended by another man in a boat to pick up the spoils, killed and retrieved 640 birds, mostly broadbill. The market price was 25c a duck and the day's operations brought them \$65 which was big money then when many a bayman and his family lived on \$1.50 a day.

J. Cypress Jr., writing in 1842, describes a duck shooting expedition to Fire Island when he met a man who was using duck decoys that he claimed had been cut by his grandad long before the Revolution. The decoys were made from seasoned white cedar fence rails hewn with an axe and fitted with heads cut from pine knots. Old cedar fence rails, it seems, were the favorite material for making stool in the earliest days.

Joel Barber's book shows a snipe stool bearing this inscription in faded ink: "Made about 1800 by Ben Hawkins, Bellport. Shot over by four generations of Hawkins." In more recent years the Verities of Seaford, Nassau County, made some pretty fine snipe stool. I guess if somebody took the trouble they'd find a lot more data than I have here given on the decoys of Long Island. Trouble is, nowadays it's fast becoming a lost art as hand labor just can't compete with the

manufactured varieties. About the only kind being made today by individual whittlers are not so much for gunning as to sit on a mantlepiece and hold cigarettes.

But I still think the duck stool is one of the most interesting species of birds native to Long Island.

\* \* \*

### Jamaica Ministers

Two natives of Long Island served as pastors of the Jamaica Presbyterian Church. Walter Wilmot, born at Southampton in 1710, son of Alexander and Mary (Norris) Wilmot, graduate of Yale 1735, served the church about six years. He married Dec. 28, 1742, Freelove Townsend, daughter of Jorham Townsend of Oyster Bay. She died Feb. 1744 and he Aug. 6, 1744.

William Mills, born March 13, 1739 the son of Isaac and Hannah Mills at Mills Ponds, Smithtown, graduated 1756 from the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University). He married Mary Reading, daughter of John and Mary (Ryserson) Reading. John Reading was one time lieutenant-governor of New Jersey. Rev. Mills was installed at Jamaica April 1762 and died March 18, 1774.

Upton Downs, Roving Reporter

Continued on page 97

# BABYLON TULIP FESTIVAL

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## Snowbound Grains of Yore

Continued from page 87

the plow and went over the tops of the locomotives.

It was customary to board up the front windows of all engines engaged in snow fighting for chunks of snow and ice were often hurled with great force against them. One engineer told me of a winter when there was an icy crust on top of the snow. He was working with a plow on the Oyster Bay Branch and blocks of icy crust were skidding across the snow from the plow. As he passed the Glen Cove station all windows in the front of the depot were broken.

There was a rule in the early days that in the event of snow, with telegraph wires down, Greenport and Sag Harbor crews were to come west as far as possible. This led to an interesting experience on the Montauk Division which I will let Mr. C. R. Smith, a retired station agent, tell in his own words as related in the Long Island Railroad Bulletin for 1928:

"Conductor Swazee, until his dying day, delighted in showing his friends a telegram written on a small piece of yellow paper. He claimed that piece of paper once saved his job. That telegram was handed to Swazee while I was Agent at Westhampton. It so happened that there was a severe snow-storm with all wires down. While I sat by the stove I heard engines blowing from both directions. Soon both engines fetched up in a snow bank right in front of the station. Supt. Bob White was on the snow-plow going east, and Swazee had the regular west-bound morning train

from Sag Harbor. White jumped out of the plow and going up to Swazee said to him; 'What are you doing here?' Swazee pulled out the little bit of paper and said,

'Read that.' It was as follows: 'whenever heavy snows and wires down come as far west as you can. Signed R. White, Supt.' It is safe to say who paid for the drinks that day."

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### Jumpers For Juniors

Introducing clothes designed by their father, Joseph Caldara, Joyce, aged four (left in the photograph), and Rose Marie, six (at right), scored an unusual success in their first appearance as models at a fashion show of original student designs presented at the Traphagen School of Fashion in New York City.

For spring and summer 1951 are their smart, tubbable jumper frocks of navy blue crush-resistant linen. They wear the jumpers with blouses of handkerchief linen with puff-shoulder sleeves and dainty, buttoned cuffs. The color is canary yellow, one of the new season's high-style accessory tones,



and as flattering to youngsters as to their older sisters. Short sleeved blouses look just as attractive with the jumpers for warmer weather.

A testimonial to their father's talents, these two little charmers dress exclusively in clothes designed and made by him, and have been voted by their dad's classmates as best-dressed children connected with the school.

Mr. Caldara's conviction is that children are decorative in themselves and that simplicity of costume, combined with freshness and good grooming even for a very young lady, is a better recipe for childish beauty than too many frills and furbelows. The simpler the style, too, the easier the clothes are to care for — a thought any mother can appreciate.

Mr. Caldara, a veteran of five years' service in the U. S. Army, has only recently completed his training at Traphagen, and is planning to specialize in designing children's wear. Meanwhile, his young daughters have already had professional modelling offers.

## Forum

Continued From Page 95

### Hempstead Tomatoes, 1851

In the first issue of the New York Times, Sept. 18, 1851, appeared on its first page this item:

"Long Island Vegetables — The State of Long Island is some on tomatoes. We were shown the other day, a tomato raised by Mr. Frederick Rowland of Hempstead, one of those vegetables which measured 22½ inches around it, and weighed 2 pounds ¾ ounces. Who can beat it?"

Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood

### Clamdiggers

I think someone should compile a list of Famous L. I. Clamdiggers. Time Newsmagazine of Feb. 19, 1951 referred to Charles E. Wilson, U. S. Mobilizer as follows: "During the summer, when he was eleven,

Continued on next page

## A Booklet to Have And to Hold

The year 1950 will long be remembered by the good people of Smithtown because of the 275th Anniversary of the town's First Presbyterian Church. And those who did not attend the celebration staged at Smithtown Branch some months ago marking the event may still do the next best thing: procure a copy of the handsome, informative booklet issued for the occasion. It is not simply a souvenir describing the various pageants and other activities, but contains such historic items as transcripts of old Indian deeds and the town patent issued by Richard Nicolls to Richard Smith, the names of the town's Revolutionary Minutemen, and the list of the supervisors and town clerks from 1719 to the present. Needless to say, nobody but a Smith occupied Smithtown's highest public office up to 1797.

The present building of the church is its third and was dedicated September 9, 1827. Probably its most famous minister was the Rev. Joshua Hartt who served during the War for Independence. The present pastor, the Rev. Raymond H. Case, was chairman of the Anniversary Committee. Copies of the booklet may be obtained while they last by addressing

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## TOOMEY'S GIFTS

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## Forum

Continued From Page 97

he got a job at a gin mill and fishing resort on Long Island. \* \* \* In his spare time he went clamming." I wonder just where that resort was.

Gary George, Long Beach

\* \* \*

### A Massapequa Booklet

Issued by the Massapequa Chamber of Commerce, a booklet entitled "Massapequa Welcomes You" contains, among other features, a splendidly compiled history of that community from the first patents in 1679, through Thomas Townsend's brief proprietorship and the Jones and Floyd-Jones dynasty to the present era. When the original Jones, Thomas, acquired proprietorship by marrying Freelove, daughter of Thomas Townsend, he continued a family title to the area that has not yet terminated in some few parts thereof.

\* \* \*

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State by Stephen D. Maguire and F. E. Reifschneider is an interesting pamphlet containing some 138 illustrations of the old time trolley cars that once cobwebbed New York from the Canadian border south-

ward. Long Island is well represented in the array of ancient cars. The pamphlet is printed on slick paper and durably bound. One copy 75c. Two copies \$1.25. Address

Continued on back cover

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## History, Tradition, Legend

The Forum has been designated to dispose of the works of the late Birdsall Jackson. The three books contain delightful stories about interesting Long Islanders of bygone days.

They are: "Stories of Old Long Island," "How They Lived" and "Pipe Dreams and Twilight Tales." Write for prices, singly or as special club offer.

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CLOSED TUESDAYS

## Forum

Continued From Page 98

Felix E. Reifschneider, Box 774,  
Orlando, Florida.

\*\*\*

I look forward each month to the  
Forum and greatly enjoy reading  
its contents. John P. McCarthy,  
Councillor at Law, Glen Cove.

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